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1826

X STATEMENT

OF

PROCEEDINGS ON THE PART

OF THE

MEMBERS OF THE FACULTY

AND

THE TRUSTEES

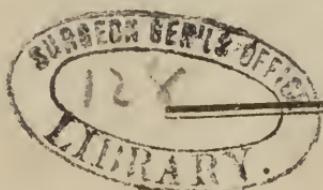
OF THE

JEFFERSON MEDICAL COLLEGE

AGAINST *175/15*

FRANCIS S. BEATTIE, M. D.

PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS AND THE DISEASES OF WOMEN AND
CHILDREN IN THAT INSTITUTION.



PHILADELPHIA:

1826.

** In a t. w. & H. 1826.*

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In justice to myself, I deem it proper to present to the public the following detailed account of the conduct pursued towards me by the Members of the Faculty, and certain Members of the Board of Trustees of the Jefferson Medical College. In this Statement will be exhibited, it is believed, a persecution unparalleled for its profli-gacy and want of good faith. The details may be considered somewhat tedious, but it is offered chiefly as a narrative of facts, without pretension to the ornaments of style, and accompanied only by such remarks as are considered necessary for the full understanding and elucidation of the subject. As illustrative of the character and principles of the individuals concerned, occasional portraits, drawn by themselves of each other, are given. With the same view are added a few instances of want of veracity and good faith, on their part, in matters unconnected with myself. To the impartial judgment of my fellow citizens this statement is fearlessly submitted. The truth as here represented, will stand unaffected by the calumnious and false attacks that may be directed against it by the unprincipled members of the confederacy or their advocates.

F. S. BEATTIE.

November 10, 1826.

STATEMENT.

SHORTLY after my removal to Philadelphia, in November, 1824, I became acquainted with the existence of a Medical College located in this city, under the auspices of Jefferson College situated at Cannonsburg. Dr. Rhee, with whom I had formerly been acquainted, gave me the first intimations on the subject of this institution: he had been appointed a Professor but a short time previously. In the month of December or January, Dr. M'Clellan called on me as an old acquaintance, asked me, among many other matters, whether I was fond of Midwifery, and whether I had practised it during the short time I resided in the country. To which queries I answered in good faith, without the least suspicion of the ultimate object of his visit. Some few weeks after this, Dr. Rhee called on me, and inquired whether I would accept the chair of Midwifery, if it were offered me. I replied it would require some time to deliberate on this measure. That Dr. Chapman was a friend of mine, whose friendship and good offices I would lose in connecting myself with the opposition. And, moreover, that the success of the Jefferson College was doubtful. I told him I would take a week or ten days to consider the matter, and at the end of that period I would inform him of my decision. About the expiration of the time specified, I stated to Dr. Rhee that "having calculated the costs" I would accept. After a short interval, he congratulated me on my having been elected unanimously by the Faculty to the chair which I have since filled. Shortly after this, I was informed that my appointment had been confirmed by the Trustees at Cannonsburg. The building we have since occupied, was, in the meantime, taken by Drs. Eberle, Rhee, M'Clellan, Mr. Green, and myself, in our individual capacities, on a lease of five years and a quarter, and the necessary alterations and repairs were carried on under the more immediate direction of Dr. Eberle, Mr. Green, and myself, as a building committee. Whilst in the discharge of this conjoined duty, Mr. Green wantonly insulted my feelings by the use of language that was considered unhandsome by all my colleagues.

As the work was progressing, small charges for hauling and other trifling sums were required almost daily, and to meet these, it was agreed, that each individual should deposit twenty dollars. It was not altogether convenient for me at the day to deposit my quota, and, as there was no immediate urgency in the case, some days had passed, when, on a particular occasion, I was giving directions to the carpenters as to the fixtures in a particular part of the building, Mr. Green being present, suggested a different mode, as being cheaper; I advocated the plan which I at first had proposed, when Mr. Green, in a very ungentlemanly tone, said, do you pay your twenty dollars, and it shall then be done as you wish. Previously to this time, I had viewed Mr. Green as a very common man, of ordinary capacity associated with excessive vanity, and disposed to arrogate to himself no inconsiderable share of consequence. I had treated him always with civility, but could not bring myself to that point from which I could view him as entitled to pre-eminent consideration and attention. And had I even been disposed thus to estimate him, the fact that Doctors Eberle and McClellan were constantly harping on his disreputable retreat from Princeton College, where he had formerly been Professor of Chemistry, would have prevented me from over-valuing his standing.

During the period of my residence in the state of New York, I had been told, that a Mr. Green, son of the Rev. Ashbel Green, D. D. had been turned out of Princeton College, in consequence of the dissatisfaction and urgent demand of the students of that Institution. Doctor McClellan shortly after I became associated with the Jefferson Medical College, repeated to me, again and again, the same statement, and added, that he wished we were clear of him, for he was a dull fellow, who would always prove a dead weight on the Institution; but said he, we cannot get rid of him yet, as it was through his father's influence with the Trustees of Cannonsburg that we got our charter. Often, and very often, Doctors Eberle and McClellan have said to me, that they wished Mr. Green out of the Institution, and Dr. Thomas M. Hall in his place. I know also that the same language was then addressed to Dr. Hall. But, leaving this backbiting for what it is worth, this much may be stated as a general report. That Mr. Green was formerly Lecturer on Chemistry at Princeton College,—that permission was given him to resign,—which he did do, but not willingly,—and that this step became necessary, not because of a villainous combination of the Professors of that Institution against him, under the direction of any of its lofty officers, thus to gratify their spleen and malice, but because of a very general and almost universal dissatisfaction and discontent on the part of the students. But my present object is not to discuss the merits of Mr. Green's relations with Princeton College, nor should I have brought before you this passage of his life, had it not presented in its several connexions some characteristic traits of the modes of thinking and acting of my notorious prosecutors, or rather persecutors.

But to resume the narrative. I stated to Doctors McClellan and

Eberle, the ungentlemanly language and manner exercised towards me by Mr. Green, and added, that such impertinence I would not endure. I observed also that at the next meeting of the Faculty, I would admonish Mr. Green for this outrage on common civility, and caution him against repeating it. They approved of this as the proper course to be pursued. Some time after, arrangements were on foot for raising means to liquidate all debts incurred by the repairs of the building. I had not funds at my command to meet my quota. Having been absent from Philadelphia for several years as a resident, I had few friends here, of that intimate kind, on whom I could call for pecuniary favours, and especially in this case of a purely speculative character, which might prove productive, or might eventuate in a total loss.

I therefore stated my circumstances to Doctors Eberle and M'Clellan, and told them that if they would procure for me the sum required, they would have as security the property in their own hands, and I would pay the interest of the sum till I could refund it. To this proposition they readily assented. A meeting of the Faculty was called at the office of Dr. Eberle, and it was at this meeting that I had determined to reprove Mr. Green for his indecorous language. I was unavoidably detained from this meeting till a late hour, and as soon as I had entered the office, Dr. M'Clellan approached me and whispered, "you must not say anything to Mr. Green, as he has for once behaved like a man." I replied that that did not make amends for his past misconduct, nor did it secure me from similar aggression. Doctor M'Clellan insisted and stated that it would be for the good of the whole, and he would give me the particulars as soon as Mr. Green had gone home. I then agreed to say nothing to Mr. Green on the subject. The other members having left the office, Doctors M'Clellan and Eberle informed me that Mr. Green had consented at their request to indorse my note, and negotiate it with the Pennsylvania bank, on condition that they, Doctors Eberle and M'Clellan, would give him their note as collateral security for the amount. I expressed my opinion of the terms as humiliating. I had no immediate alternative, and therefore consented to them with this express understanding, that I received the favour from them, and not from Mr. Green. Doctor Eberle drew the note that same evening,—I signed it, and Dr. Eberle took it to Mr. Green, and the money was obtained and expended on the building. As often as the note became due, Dr. Eberle drew another note; I signed it, gave him the discount, and he gave it to Mr. Green. No communication was had with Mr. Green by me on the subject of the existence of this note. It was discounted a number of times and was never protested, although I have been informed it has been falsely stated that such had been the case.

The present accommodations having been completed, and the Infirmary established, we went on smoothly till September or October. Dr. Rhee about this time evinced a captious and pecculant temper towards me, which was evidently fomented and encouraged by Mr.

Green. Dr. R. had indulged in this mode to an unusual degree on one particular occasion, at a meeting of the Faculty: and, after we had left the building, Dr. Eberle asked me what could be the reason that Dr. R. was so captious and ill-natured. I told him what I conceived to be the reason. But he was once my friend. His virtuous and amiable family I esteem. Their worth shall shield him from the reprehension which his conduct towards me justly merits.

The course of lectures commenced in November. From this time Dr. Rhees conducted himself in a very exceptionable manner towards me. Mr. Green stated to Dr. M'Clellan, as I was then informed, that Dr. Rhees had told him that this conduct on his part was in consequence of my having treated him disrespectfully in his own house and before his mother and sisters. Dr. Rhees however afterwards asserts that he had never, to any one, said that I had insulted him in his own house, but that on the contrary I had always conducted myself respectfully towards himself and family.

This declaration Dr. Rhees made at a meeting of the Faculty, when all were present, except Mr. Green. This malicious falsehood, contrived with a view to injure me, rests at present, so far as it can rest on the authority of Dr. M'Clellan's word, with Mr. Green. About this time, which was perhaps in December, (I cannot pretend to accuracy in dates,) Dr. Eberle said to me, that as a friend he would inform me, that Dr. Rhees and Mr. Green were my enemies, and that he stated this fact to me that I might be on my guard against them. During the winter, Dr. M'Clellan often complained to me of the supercilious manner of Dr. Smith. I had observed and felt the same trait in his character, and stated to Dr. M'Clellan that I would not endure his offensive demeanour towards me, that if it were repeated I would resent it. Dr. M'C. accorded with me, that there was no other way of getting along with him, and he knew this from his own experience.

Nothing unusual occurred till the lectures closed. Doctors M'Clellan and Eberle returned from Harrisburg the same day that I had taken leave of the class. That evening I called at Dr. M'Clellan's, and met with a most rude and unhandsome reception. Dr. M'Clellan then sneeringly charged me with having boasted in my valedictory lecture of having fought the battles of my country. The day we commenced our examination of candidates, Dr. M'Clellan repeated the same language he had addressed to me in his own house. I then charged him with misrepresentation, and cautioned him against repeating it. A few moments after this occurrence Dr. Smith exhibited a specimen of his uncourteous behaviour, at which I felt exceedingly indignant. Social intercourse ceased between Dr. M'C. Dr. S. and myself. Passing to and from the building each day in company with Dr. Eberle, I mentioned to him, that I would settle this matter with those gentlemen as soon as our object should be accomplished with the Legislature. Perhaps, and indeed I believe I did say, I would chastise them. Dr Eberle, with the *sincere affection of a true friend*, who was disposed to widen rather than heal the breach, acted the part of talc-bearer, and

added such colouring as he thought proper. After our commencement had been holden, Dr. Eberle told me there was a combination against me, determined to remove me from my chair. I asked him who composed it: he declined telling me, but assured me that it was a fact; and he added, they will succeed too. The open hostility of Mr. Green and Dr. R. became very manifest as soon as the misunderstanding between Doctors S. and McClellan and myself occurred. Without any cause assigned, they both ceased to speak to me when we met. I observed to Dr. Eberle, (who at this time appeared to be my friend, and who stated that he had no agency in the combination, and that he would not have any thing to do with it,) that, with men who had respect to ordinary justice and probity, they could not succeed, for in no instance had I been the aggressor. He repeated his assertion, that they would succeed.

About this time I received from Mr. Green a note, unhandsome and ungentlemanly in its style as I conceived, in relation to my note held by the Pennsylvania Bank, which was not then due. This was pushing the matter in a personal form rather too far. As soon as I had read this note from Mr. G., I refolded it and directed it back to him, through the post office. The note, as I was informed, is received and opened by the Rev. Dr. Green—a message is instantly sent after Mr. Green, who had started on a visit to Princeton, requiring his immediate return,—Mr. Green arrives by express, runs, breathless, from street to street, sounding the alarm of outrage! outrage! come forth and stand by me for my protection in this perilous case! The Faculty are assembled in a twinkling, not by beat of drum but by blast of breath. The victim is suspended whilst measures are devised for his immolation. Immolate him! And for what? Because he would not composedly receive uncourteous personalities, and because he would dare to return an uncivil note to its uncivil author. This hurly burly is had apart, without my knowledge. The incanted drugs are here commingled. Behind the curtain and at no great distance stands the lofty chief magician, pleased that the work goes on so well.

After a lapse of some time, Dr. Eberle apprised me that then I would certainly be removed. Charges, said he, will shortly be preferred against you at Cannonsburg, and they will remove you at once. I asked of him the favour to submit to me those charges, when they were made out, and allow me to reply to them. And that I would put both communications, the charges and their answers, into their hands, that both might arrive at Cannonsburg together, before any prejudice had been excited on either side. Dr. E. pledged me his word of honour that a request so reasonable should be granted. Shortly after this interview Dr. E. told me one evening, that the deed was done, that the charges had been drawn up, and that Dr. Rees had been directed, as Dean of the Faculty, to copy them and transmit them by the next mail. I charged Dr. E. with his perfidy in not fulfilling his pledge. He excused himself by saying that the other members of the Faculty would not allow me to see the charges. Dr. McClellan and Dr. Rees afterwards however informed me that he never made such a request. Be that

as it may, Dr. E. drew up the charges, and had he been disposed to redeem his pledge he had the power as well as the right. I proposed about this time, to submit the whole matter to the final decision of J. B. Sutherland Esq., an active patron of the Institution, Edward Ingersoll Esq. the brother-in-law, and S. Badger Esq. the cousin, as I have been informed, of Dr. McClellan. This proposition was rejected. Fortunately, very fortunately for my rights was it so, as events have since proved.

I was informed that it should be left to the Trustees when appointed here. I then urged the immediate appointment of the Trustees. The privilege of nominating the additional Trustees had been granted to the Medical Faculty by the Trustees at Cannonsburg. Their nomination was deferred for many weeks. At length a list was made out, which appeared satisfactory to all. The name of Dr. Wylie was put on the list, not by me but by others, and in consequence, as was stated by Dr. McClellan and Mr. Ingersoll, of his being a friend of mine. About this time it was industriously circulated at tea-tables and at corners of the streets that I would be turned out of the college. I had no way of meeting this, but was compelled to submit. In May I was obliged to visit the state of New York with a view to benefit the health of one of my children. I gave notice of my absence to one of the Members of the Faculty, and as soon as I had left the city the list of Trustees was overhauled, and the name of Dr. Wylie stricken off. This took place in a conclave of Professors and Trustees from Cannonsburg. The name of Judge King was also stricken off, and in consequence of his having spoken in terms commendatory of me. Judge King's name was subsequently, at the instance of Mr. Sutherland, added.

A day or two after I had returned, I met with Dr. McClellan in Chestnut street, near the post office. I asked him why they had removed the name of Dr. Wylie. I also asked him if that looked like a wish that truth and justice should prevail. He disclaimed having had any thing to do with it, and stated that he was not in the city when it was done. He then informed me that they had sent charges against me to Cannonsburg. I asked him what they were. He stated that they were uncourteous deportment towards my colleagues, and incapacity. They are, said he, the same as those that were prepared to be sent before.

He further stated, that they, meaning the other members of the Faculty, had applied for my removal at Cannonsburg without an investigation, but that he and Dr. Smith had written to the Trustees at Cannonsburg, suggesting that the matter should be referred to the Trustees when appointed here, and that I had better write to the Trustees at Cannonsburg on the subject. I stated to him that I had already written to them. He expressed his satisfaction, and inquired how long since my letter had been sent, and when I told him the day, he said it would be in time. Dr. McClellan here stated, as he had repeatedly done before, that the whole of this difference had originated in the circumstance of too great intimacy between Dr. Eberle, himself, and me, by which the jealousy of the other Members of the Faculty was excited. I observed, I hoped the whole truth would come out soon, that I had always acted on the

defensive, and should maintain that position. Dr. McClellan stated that he was surprised that Dr. Barton had taken the course he had adopted towards me: and that he, Dr. McClellan, had urged Dr. Barton to keep himself quiet, that he was pursuing a wrong course. I asked what Dr. Barton was doing: Dr. McClellan said he was making himself very busy in endeavouring to injure me. I requested him to tell me what Dr. Barton was doing or saying. He said he would not, that it would do me no good to tell me I observed that in the overhauling, we would discover these rotten points. Some other loose conversation was had and we parted.

I had no further communication with any individual connected with the Institution, until I received a letter from Dr. Brown, President of Cannonsburg College, dated June 29th, 1826, in reply to one I had addressed, on the 12th of that month, to the Rev. S. Ralston, D. D., President of the board of Trustees. These letters were as follows.

Philadelphia, June 12th, 1826.

SIR—As a Professor of the Jefferson Medical College, I take the liberty of addressing the Board of Trustees of Jefferson College on the following subject.

I have the honour of holding, as the Board are aware, the Professorship of Midwifery and the Diseases of Women and Children in this Institution. Believing that there exists a combination of the other Professors against me, founded in feelings of personal hostility on the part of some of them, and having for its object, my removal from this station; I am impelled by a sense of duty to myself, and respect to the Board of Trustees, to declare that I am ready to meet any inquiry in relation to the execution of the trust confided to me. The fourth resolution passed at the meeting of the Board of Trustees, which established the Medical College, declares that no Professor shall be removed, until "after a fair and full investigation of the alledged causes for a removal, and no other way." If the object of these gentlemen be as presumed, common justice requires, the Board will perceive, that the mode pointed out by the resolution be adopted. Under these circumstances, I respectfully request the Board of Trustees will be pleased to cause an investigation to be made here, as to my competency and qualifications, or any other alledged cause for removal, and as to the codition of the Institution generally.

These suggestions are respectfully submitted to the consideration of the Board of Trustees, with the entire conviction, that the integrity and honour of the distinguished individuals of which it is composed, will not permit the professional reputation, and with it the happiness of the subscriber, to be sacrificed.

With the highest respect, Your obedient servant,
REV. SAMUEL RALSTON, D. D.

F. S. BEATTIE.

Prest. Board Trust. Jefferson College.

DEAR SIR,

Cannonsburg, June 29th, 1826.

Your communication of the 5th inst. was laid before the Board of Trustees at their meeting yesterday. In relation to the difficulties which have arisen in your case, and to which your letter refers, the Board have made no decision, but agreeably to your request, refer

the whole matter to the Trustees lately appointed in Philadelphia. The resolution, with resolutions on other subjects, has been transmitted to the Trustees, who will shortly meet, and will of course give you notice. It is to be regretted that any difference or difficulties should have arisen so soon in the new Institution; but we hope all will turn out for the best. Yours respectfully,

M. BROWN, *Prest. of Jefferson College.*

F. S. BEATTIE, M. D.

In the meantime, however, I heard from various quarters, that the rumour was industriously circulated in private circles, at tea-tables, and at the corners of streets, that I was to be removed. Among many other slanderous untruths, I was told that Dr. Barton had said that I was a defaulter to the United States. This came through a channel so direct that there could be no mistake: I told the individual who mentioned it to me that it was not true.

This falsehood Dr. Barton had fabricated out of the following facts. In the year 1819, I put my name on the bonds of a Purser, in the United States Navy, as one of two sureties for the correct discharge of the duties of his station. This Purser died in the year 1823, or thereabouts, having in his immediate possession at the time of his death, funds of the United States to a considerable amount. From the best information I could collect, it is almost certain that this money was surreptitiously taken possession of by some one at the time of his illness or death. The money was lost, and at the settlement of his accounts with the Navy Department, he was declared a delinquent in a sum less than two thousand dollars. A suit was instituted against me as his surety, which suit is still pending, and to meet which, I have in my possession a letter from the Hon. Smith Thompson, then Secretary of the United States Navy, dated June 30, 1823, in which are these words relative to this matter. "Your account is closed on the books of the fourth Auditor, and you will hereafter regularly receive your pay and rations as usual in the service." My pay and rations had been stopped, agreeably to an act of Congress, till this account was adjusted and closed. This is but a moderate specimen of the malignant spirit, which gives a stamp to the character of this man.

I added that Dr. Barton did not stand before the public as a man of truth, nor as a man of common honesty, if the statement made by Dr. M'Ciellan was correct.

It may be proper here to observe, that during the past winter, when the success of our efforts at Harrisburg to obtain a charter from the Legislature was very doubtful, Dr. Barton manifested toward me personally, the warmest friendship, and on one particular occasion asked me why I had not proposed him as Professor of Anatomy previously to the appointment of Dr. Smith. I stated to him that I did not know that he knew any thing of Anatomy: "Oh!" said he, "Dr. Physic said," (referring to the precise time which I do not now recollect,) "that I was the best Anatomist he knew in the city." The details of this conversation would be uninteresting and consume too much time for the present purpose. The amount of the whole was, however, that he would be

pleased to have a situation amongst us in the event of our success. I accordingly, as his friend, proposed him as lecturer on Botany; Dr. M'Clellan immediately objected, and stated that it would by no means answer, as he would immediately set us quarrelling. He observed further, that Mr. Edward Ingersoll had told him to have nothing to do with Dr. Barton, for he was an unprincipled fellow, and would sacrifice his dearest friend to answer his own purposes, and that he, Edward Ingersoll, knew him well as a boy and as a man. As a further disqualification, Dr. M'Clellan said he had been caught stealing, and it would never do to have him associated with us. The charge of stealing Dr. M'Clellan added, had been communicated to him by Mr. Badger, and that these were the particulars: that Colonel Carr, of Kingsessing, had observed for some time the gradual decrease of his most valuable hot-house plants. To detect the manner in which they had disappeared, he gave directions to one of his workman to watch visitors, when about to leave the garden. On a particular day, the man so employed, went to Colonel Carr and told him that some of his plants were now going. The Colonel followed the man to the gig of Dr. Barton, and from it took some one or more plants. Colonel Carr then ordered Dr. Barton to leave his garden and forbade him ever to re-enter it. Such was the statement made by Dr. M'Clellan, which, he said, he received from Mr. S. Badger, and that Mr. Badger told him that he had it from Colonel Carr. Dr. Knapp informed me that he had heard Dr. M'Clellan relate the same circumstances as coming from the same authority.* Dr. M'Clellan made this statement not to me only, but to many others. Some of the Members of the Faculty were present when I heard it. I have been informed within a short period, that I was charged with having originated this tale, and that it was made a distinct cause why I should be removed. This savours of the sound logic and scrupulous sense of truth and justice which has been manifested by the prosecution through the whole progress of this affair. But to return to the narrative. A few days after I had received the letter from Dr. Brown above given, I met Dr. M'Clellan in Walnut above Tenth street. He stopped and commenced a conversation on the business of the College, by stating that the whole affair had been left to the additional Trustees appointed here, and that it would now be settled: that the other Professors had turned against him in consequence of his having written to Cannonsburg. He said the whole matter would be dropped now, that it had originated from jealousy at the intimacy that had subsisted between him, Dr. Eberle, and myself; he further said, you all have your lectures written and we will go on smoothly under the superintendence of the Trustees. We could not have existed but would have fallen to pieces, if the additional Trustees had not been appointed. I stated to Dr. M'Clellan that the matter could not be dropped now as they had brought me before the public in an unfavourable light, the investigation must be had, at the same time observing to him, the investiga-

* Dr. Knapp, late a student of Dr. M'Clellan's, has given to Dr. Barton, a certificate that Dr. M'Clellan had communicated to him, Dr. Knapp, these circumstances.

tion would cover more ground than he was aware of: that my request of the Trustees embraced the conduct of every individual of the Faculty, and that this would bring to light many things that would bear no comely aspect. Dr. McClellan observed, then the Trustees will *choose* the whole of us. I replied that I could not help that, they must run the chance, I had not courted this, that every thing I had done was in self-defence. We parted, and in a day or two Mr. Green went to Cannonsburg, for what purpose I can only conjecture. This occurred about the first of July. Nothing further came to my knowledge until I received a notification from a committee of Trustees to meet them at the house of Mr. Badger.

Judge King, Mr. Badger and Mr. Edward Ingersoll, of the Trustees, and all the Professors, were present on the night of our first meeting. Nothing relating to my case was done officially that evening. Mr. Ingersoll, who was not a member of that Committee, commenced a conversation with me at the back door and rather out of the room in which we had met. Mr. Ingersoll started the conversation by inquiring what course I wished to be pursued in this investigation? I replied a general and strictly impartial one—that I wished and required that all evidence adduced against me should be given on oath, and that the testimony on my behalf should be presented in that form. He demurred somewhat but said nothing definite. Mr. Ingersoll then suggested the propriety of my stipulating to abandon my rights to the building, and drop the affair without attempting redress, provided the Trustees should decide against me. This proposition I rejected at once, as altogether inadmissible, and observed that however favourably disposed I might have felt toward his proposition, had it been made at a proper stage of the business, that meeting it here on the threshold, it assumed a shape so questionable that I could have nothing to do with it. I said to Mr. Ingersoll, however, that I would mention it to my legal advisers, R. W. Sykes and C. J. Ingersoll, Esquires. This meeting and conversation was held, I believe, on the 17th or 19th of August. We were informed by Judge King that the investigating Committee, consisting of himself and Mr. Badger, Mr. Sutherland having declined to act, would meet on the next Friday evening, and in the mean time they would notify such Professors as they wished to attend. They met as I believe, but I was not of this select party. A few days after this meeting I was summoned to meet the Committee at one o'clock, P. M. I accordingly met them and was there told they had been directed to investigate a charge of "incompetency" brought against me as Professor of Obstetrics in the Jefferson Medical College. I demanded a copy of the formal charge or charges alleged against me. I was told they could give me none—that they had received barely a resolution of the Board of Trustees at Cannonsburg, under which they acted. At my request a copy of the resolution was furnished me, which is as follows :

Resolved, That said Trustees are hereby authorised as soon as qualified and organized, to inquire into the state of the said Medical Department, and report to this Board as soon as practicable.

Resolved, also, That as reports from various quarters, as well as representations from the Faculty of that Department, unfavourable to

the competency of Dr. Beattie, have been laid before the Board, it is especially anxious that the Trustees of Philadelphia take his case into consideration, and after a full investigation to transmit to this Board the result of their inquiries, with such suggestions or information respecting removals or appointments as in their opinion may appear expedient.

Dear Sir—The above is a copy of the resolutions under which the Committee of which I have the honour to be one, have been appointed.

Very truly Yours, S. BADGER.

DR. BEATTIE.

16th August.

I urged them to take up the broad question of the general and particular condition of the College, and the conduct and character of each of its Professors. This they refused, saying they could investigate no other point than my alleged "incompetency." That their instructions confined them to this point alone. The Committee stated to me that they had been informed that I had delivered but twenty-five lectures during the winter, and that to counteract the force of this assertion, I should produce my lectures that evening, at half past 7 o'clock, when the investigation would be commenced. This meeting was at 12 o'clock, at noon, and at half past 7 I met the Committee and produced to them forty-five written lectures, that had been delivered, by me, in the College, last winter. I then stated to the Committee that in addition to these written lectures I had delivered a number of lectures extemporaneously, such as the demonstration of the bones and soft parts concerned in conception, utero-gestation and parturition—a description of the instruments used in obstetrical practice and their method of use and particular application, which, together with the ordinary recapitulatory lecture of each week, added to the forty-five written lectures, will give about fifty-six. This differs somewhat from the statement that I had delivered but twenty-five. But a slight error as to numbers might readily be made by the best of calculators. The difference between twenty-five and fifty-six is only thirty-one. A slight stretch of the imagination, especially if it be formed of elastic materials, might without difficulty lead to this error.

Before the investigation had formally commenced, I proposed that each of the witnesses should be examined on oath. This was promptly and positively refused. I was compelled to yield. A proposition was then made that my course of written lectures should be submitted to the criticisms and general decision of Doctors Eberle, Smith, and Barton. I unhesitatingly rejected the proposition, and substituted in its room a proposal to submit them to the scrutiny of any three Physicians they might choose out of the school. This was on their part declined. The witnesses were then called in, and I will here state a fact at which those accustomed to the ordinary modes of investigating truth, must express their surprise. It is this: that the prosecutors were admitted as witnesses, and that, on their testimony alone, in relation to alleged incidents which they did not witness, and in opposition to the positive evidence of disinterested witnesses who were personally present at the occurrence of these incidents, this Committee formed their report and this Board of Trustees founded their resolution.

The investigation commenced and the following testimony was given; and let it be remembered that what is here offered is not a mere synopsis of the evidence, but a full and literal recapitulation of the testimony reduced to writing in the presence of the Committee at the time it was given by each witness. My enemies may have the full benefit of it.

Dr. Eberle on his examination stated, that Dr. Beattie was to have lectured four times each week, but that he did not lecture quite three times each week:*

That Dr. B. often neglected to meet the class at the appointed hour;—that once he walked past the building without going in, when he ought to have been lecturing:

That Dr. Beattie refused to apologise to the class;—that he had heard but a few of Dr. Beattie's lectures;—that the students always complained;—that he did not recollect the names of those who found so much fault;—that the students detected Dr. Beattie in an error of doctrine in his lectures:

That Dr. Beattie committed an error in examining a candidate for graduation;—that the question asked by Dr. Beattie was, how he would know when the placenta is detached?—that candidate replied, by examining;—that Dr. Beattie corrected him by saying, you will know by the pulsation of the cord.

On his cross-examination, Dr. Eberle stated, that he could not say at what time Dr. Beattie walked past the lecture room when he ought to have been lecturing, nor who were present with him:

That he heard Dr. Beattie deliver a part of two lectures;—that Dr. Beattie attended his practice during his absence at Harrisburg last winter:

That attending on his cases of midwifery alone, might have prevented Dr. Beattie from meeting the class at the hour for lecturing;—that his patients were well satisfied with Dr. Beattie as a practitioner of midwifery;—that he believed Dr. Beattie as competent as most practitioners to deliver women;—that he had no hesitancy in committing to Dr. Beattie the delivery of a case of midwifery which he apprehended would prove difficult:

That he had sometimes sent for Dr. Beattie to deliver patients for him, when he was in town, and otherwise engaged;—that he was absent at Harrisburg six weeks:

That he believed Dr. Beattie might not be competent to some difficult cases, such as a cross-presentation; but that his incompetency in such cases would only proceed from his limited experience. He is certain that the question asked by Dr. Beattie of the candidate was not, how would you judge of the proper time to remove the placenta after the delivery of the child?—that he gave fifty lectures during the course of last winter;—that Dr. M'Clellan first spoke of the removal of Dr. Beattie at Harrisburg:

That he had heard complaints of other lecturers;—that students often complained of Dr. Rhee's lectures as deficient in matter;—that he frequently failed in lecturing at his hour;—that he did tell Dr.

* The want of technical form, in presenting the testimony, is to be attributed to the circumstance of my conducting the investigation without the presence of counsel.

Beattie that Dr. Rhees and Mr. Green were his enemies;—that he did not recollect his having told Dr. Beattie that there was a combination against him;—that he did request that the charges about to be preferred against Dr. Beattie at Cannonsburg, should be submitted to him, and that he should be permitted to reply to them before they were sent;—that he drew up those charges.

The next witness is Dr. Smith, who on his examination stated, that Dr. Beattie lost about one-fourth of his time for lecturing;—that he heard the students complaining;—that he heard them also approve his lectures;—that he heard Dr. McClellan say, that the students complained, but that Dr. Beattie was capable of getting up a satisfactory course:

That a knowledge of Dr. Beattie's having been engaged in naval practice would operate unfavourably toward him with the class;—that the question put to the candidate was, how would you ascertain when it was proper to remove the placenta, or when the placenta is detached from the uterus;—that Dr. Beattie answered the question himself, by saying, you will be governed by the pulsation of the chord;—that Dr. Beattie is not qualified for the chair which he fills;—that he grounded this opinion on the opinion of the students; on an error in point of doctrine (supposed to be) contained in his introductory; on the error committed in the examination of the candidate; on want of information on the collateral branches of the science, and on the want of ambition and industry;—that Dr. Beattie did not make suitable efforts to get up his lectures;—that he heard Dr. Beattie lecture once or twice.

Dr. Smith on his cross-examination then stated that there existed a personal misunderstanding between himself and Dr. Beattie.

Dr. Rhees on his examination stated, that he did not think Dr. Beattie did lecture more than three times each week;—that he often found the class at 10 o'clock in an uproar in consequence of no lecture;—that the students complained that Dr. Beattie had disappointed them;—that he had heard no complaints from the students, who had attended Dr. Beattie's lectures, with regard to the matter;—that he can say nothing from his own observation;—that he knew that Dr. Beattie had been in the practice of Naval and Military Surgery at the time the chair of Midwifery was offered to him;—that Dr. Beattie did reply to his own question addressed to the candidate.

Dr. Barton on his examination stated, that he heard Dr. Beattie deliver one lecture which was passably written and well read;—that he heard Dr. Knapp say that Dr. Beattie had failed in his lectures, but not so far as Dr. Rhees;—that he did not recollect to have heard Dr. Knapp say that he was well pleased with all the lecturers;—that Dr. Beattie called on him often last winter to consult him in relation to the publishing of newspaper paragraphs in favour of the new school;—that he did not talk with Dr. Beattie of introducing Dr. Rush and himself into the new school;—that Dr. Beattie did advise him to say nothing more of Dr. Rush as it would injure his own prospects;—that he did not recollect asking Dr. Beattie if something in addition to Botany, such as the Institutes could not be ar-

ranged for him so as to make it a full chair;—that Dr. Beattie's calls were late in the evening, and the general conversation was in relation to the interests of the Jefferson College. Dr. Barton evinced a rancorous and malignant passion from the commencement of his examination, which now issued in such torrents of invective, that I was obliged to cease cross-examining him.

Dr. McClellan on his examination stated, that Dr. Beattie was expected to deliver but three lectures each week, and one recapitulatory examination;—that students frequently complained that Dr. Beattie failed to meet his class at the appointed hour;—that he never heard Dr. Beattie lecture except his introductory;—that the general feeling was that Dr. Beattie was not fully prepared;—that students complained that Dr. Beattie had not given satisfaction in the demonstration of the circulation of the foetus.

Dr. McClellan on his cross-examination then stated, that Dr. Beattie was popular with the students;—that the question put by Dr. Beattie to the candidate was first,—when would you remove the placenta? and, second,—how would you tell when the placenta was detached?—that Dr. Beattie answered his own question by saying, you will know by the cessation of the pulsation in the chord;—that the candidate did not give an answer of any kind to the question;—that Dr. Beattie did attend the practice of Dr. Eberle during the time he was absent at Harrisburg;—that he had four students in his office;—that he had practised Medicine here seven years. Dr. McClellan was asked, did you not state a few weeks since that the efforts to remove Dr. Beattie, would not have occurred, had not the other Professors become jealous of the intimacy that subsisted between yourself, Dr. Eberle and Dr. Beattie? Dr. McClellan refused to give a categorical answer to the question, but gave vent to such a torrent of incongruous and disjointed rant as to prevent me from proceeding further in the examination. His friend and relative, Mr. Badger, tried to quiet him, but the effort proved fruitless.

Here the evidence of the prosecutors (the only evidence produced for the prosecution,) closed.

The defence now commenced, by calling in Dr. Shaw.

Dr. Shaw was asked by Dr. Beattie, as were all the witnesses for the defence, whether he had been questioned by Dr. Beattie as to the matter of his testimony, in case he should be called as a witness? Dr. Shaw, as did all the following witnesses, replied in the negative.

Dr. Shaw on his examination stated, that he was a student of Jefferson College last winter, and attended Dr. Beattie's class;—that Dr. Beattie omitted some lectures last winter;—that Dr. Smith and Mr. Green, and Dr. Eberle and Dr. McClellan lectured more regularly than Dr. Beattie, but that Dr. Rhees did not lecture so punctually as Dr. Beattie did;—that Drs. Eberle and McClellan did not deliver a full course of lectures;—that they were absent on the general business of the institution;—that he knew that Dr. Beattie did attend the practice of Dr. Eberle during his absence, and that he knew that it must necessarily interfere with Dr. Beattie's regular preparations and attentions to his class;—that he had heard Mr. Watson state to the class, that Dr. Beattie was prevented attending

in consequence of urgent professional occupation,—that he had heard him make this statement several times;—that it was the opinion of the members of the class that Dr. Beattie was fully capable of delivering a satisfactory course of lectures on midwifery;—that the class were pleased with the matter and manner of Dr. Beattie's lectures.

Dr. Shaw on his cross-examination stated: That he had never heard Dr. Beattie advance any doctrines contrary to the received opinions of physiologists:

That he never heard Dr. Beattie inculcate in his lectures, that an uninterrupted vascular connexion existed between the mother and child:

That the school would have been injured if not ruined, had all the Professors omitted as many lectures as Doctors Beattie, Eberle, M'Cleilan, and Rhee:

That with the understanding, that these omissions were the effect of service rendered either directly or indirectly in behalf of the school, they would not produce an injurious effect on the future prospects of the school:

That he does consider, and that it was so esteemed by the class, that Dr. Beattie's attendance on the practice of Dr. Eberle, and thus enabling him to go to Harrisburg, was indirectly promoting the interests of the school:

That Doctors Smith and M'Clellan lectured extemporaneously:

Mr. Mears, a student of Jefferson College, on his examination stated: That Dr. Beattie did not deliver the full number of lectures last winter that were expected from him:

That some members of the class expressed dissatisfaction with these omissions:

That he had heard some three or four or more complain of these omissions:

That when the lectures were delivered, the class was satisfied:

That he had never heard Dr. Beattie inculcate erroneous principles of physiology in his lectures, nor had he at any time heard such a thing spoken of by any member of the class:

That Mr. Watson did sometimes state to the class, that Dr. Beattie was professionally engaged, and thus prevented meeting it.

Mr. Mears cross-examined states: he had also heard Dr. Beattie apologise to the class, and assign professional occupation as the cause of disappointment:

That he had never heard any member of the class express an opinion, that Dr. Beattie was incompetent to lecture on Midwifery, but that, on the contrary, the lectures Dr. Beattie delivered were very satisfactory to the class:

That he had attended two courses of lectures:

That Doctors Eberle and Rhee failed to deliver a full course of lectures last winter:

That Dr. Eberle's deficiency was owing to his absence:

That he knew, that during the absence of Dr. Eberle, Dr. Beattie attended his practice for him:

That the students were very generally dissatisfied with the matter of Dr. Rhees' lectures :

That similar omissions on the part of all the Professors, would have injured the reputation of the school: but that, with the understanding, that these omissions had been the effect of service, either directly or indirectly rendered in behalf of the school, they would not have had this injurious effect :

That he was of opinion, that Dr. Beattie's attendance on the practice of Dr. Eberle, and thus enabling him to go to Harrisburg, was indirectly promoting the interests of the school.

Dr Knapp stated : That he attended the Jefferson Medical School last winter; observed omissions on the part of Dr. Beattie in delivering the number of his lectures :

That Doctors Eberle, M' Clellan, and Rhees, also failed to give their full complement of lectures :

That Dr. Beattie omitted to lecture before Dr. Eberle's absence :

That he never heard Dr. Beattie teach doctrines contravening the received opinions of physiologists.

Dr. Knapp on his cross-examination stated, that the students were satisfied with Dr. Beattie's lectures;—that he had heard some students express their satisfaction and some their dissatisfaction,—dissatisfied principally with the omissions;—that he was a student with Dr. M' Clellan;—that he does not recollect to have expressed an opinion of the lectures in Jefferson College to any one;—that he does not recollect particular instances;—that he always spoke favourably of the lecturers;—that he always spoke in high terms of the Institution and Professors.

Mr. M' Kinney, student of Jefferson College, on his examination stated, that he had observed omissions on the part of Dr. Beattie in lecturing last winter;—that they were not frequent;—that there were omissions also on the part of Drs. Rhees and Eberle;—that the class were satisfied with Dr. Beattie's lectures;—that he believes the duties of the practice of Drs. Eberle and Beattie combined would interfere with the duties of a lecturer, and necessarily cause omissions;—that he certainly thought that Dr. Beattie's attendance on the practice of Dr. Eberle during his absence, was as essentially promoting the interests of the whole, as if Dr. Beattie had been himself employed in directly aiding the passage of the bill.

Mr. M' Kinney, cross-examined, stated, that he was well satisfied with the demonstration of the soft parts which Dr. Beattie gave to the class last winter;—that he was as well pleased with the demonstration that Dr. Beattie gave of these parts as with that of any man he had ever heard;—that he had witnessed demonstrations of the same parts at Lexington, and by Dr. Smith of the Jefferson Medical College.

Mr. Luzenburg, a student of Jefferson College, on his examination stated that he had attended nearly three full courses of lectures on Midwifery. That Dr. Beattie omitted some days to lecture. That the class were well satisfied with the lectures delivered by Dr. Beattie. That he was as well pleased with Dr. Beattie's lec-

tures as with any other lectures he had heard on that subject. That Drs. Rhee, Eberle, and McClellan, failed to give a full course of lectures. That he was dissatisfied with the lectures of Dr. Rhee. That he was quite as well satisfied with the demonstrations of the soft parts which Dr. Beattie gave, as with those of Dr. Smith.

Mr. M'Intosh, a student of Jefferson College, on his examination stated: That he had observed omissions on the part of Dr. Beattie as to the number of lectures:

That he believed Dr. Beattie usually communicated to the class the cause of his absence:

That when Dr. Beattie did lecture, he occupied the full time allotted to him, and sometimes more:

That the class were satisfied with the lectures delivered so far as he knew:

That had the class generally known that Dr. Beattie had to attend the practice of Dr. Eberle, that he might go to Harrisburg on the business of the College, there would have been no dissatisfaction expressed at Dr. Beattie's omissions:

That Drs. Eberle, McClellan, and Rhee, failed to give their full complement of lectures:

That he was well satisfied with Dr. Beattie's demonstrations of the soft parts—quite as well pleased as with those of Dr. Smith.

The oral testimony was here closed. I subsequently wished to offer further evidence to show that the omissions on my part were the effect of circumstances beyond my control, unless I had been unfaithful to the confidence Dr. Eberle had reposed in me, when he committed his practice to my care. The opportunity to present this testimony was refused by the Board of Trustees.

There was no evidence produced against me, except that of my avowed enemies—certain members of the Faculty. And let it be recollected, that no one of these individuals heard two lectures delivered by me. Their testimony went to show that I had delivered but twenty-five lectures. This was demonstrated to the committee to be untrue. They stated that the class were generally dissatisfied with my lectures. Dr. Shaw, Mr. Mears, Dr. Knapp, Mr. M'Kinney, Mr. Luzenberg, and Mr. M'Intosh stated that the class were uniformly satisfied and pleased with my lectures.

Drs. Eberle, Smith, Rhee, and McClellan testified that I had taught erroneous doctrines in my lectures.

Dr. Shaw, Mr. Mears, Dr. Knapp, Mr. M'Kinney, Mr. Luzenberg, and Mr. M'Intosh stated that they had not heard me teach any doctrines in my lectures contrary to the received opinions of Physiologists. They had heard all my lectures during the course.

Dr. Smith stated that I was deficient in the collateral branches, referring particularly to his department, Anatomy.

Mr. M'Kinney, Mr. Luzenberg, and Mr. M'Intosh state that my anatomical demonstrations were fully equal to those of Dr. Smith, or any other whom they had ever heard.

Drs. Eberle, Smith, Rhee, Barton, and McClellan stated that the class were exceedingly dissatisfied with some omissions to lecture.

Dr. Shaw, Mr. Mears, Dr. Knapp, Mr. M'Kinney, Mr. Luzenberg,

and Mr. M'Intosh stated that they were not dissatisfied, knowing I was occupied in attending the practice of Dr. Eberle during his absence from the city, and that Drs. Eberle, M'Clellan, and Rhee were equally, (and some of them even more so,) chargeable with having omitted to lecture their full number of times.

Drs. Eberle, Smith, and Rhee, &c. stated that I did not apologise to the class, nor assign a reason for disappointing them.

Dr. Shaw, Mr. Mears, Dr. Knapp, Mr. M'Kinney, Mr. Luzenberg, and Mr. M'Intosh, who were present on such occasions, state that I did apologise, and assigned professional occupation as the cause of absence.

Dr. Eberle stated that I did attend his practice during the period of his absence from the city, which was six weeks—that he had sent his midwifery patients to me when in town and so engaged that he could not attend them—that he had committed to my care a case of midwifery in which he apprehended much difficulty—that his patients were all well satisfied, and pleased with the discharge of my professional duties towards them—(Dr. Eberle had the best of reasons for making this statement.) Dr. Barton, as to whose testimony it is proper to say that I was unable to reduce to writing the torrent of abuse that issued from his mouth, stated that he knew Dr. Beattie well—knew the structure of his mind, that it was very inferior—that Dr. Beattie when a student was considered very dull. This was the opinion of Dr. Barton in 1826. Let us now see what was his opinion expressed in 1816. And unfortunately for the consistency of this *honourable man*, we can refer to recorded evidence in his own handwriting. This opinion is to be found in the following letters.

Oct. 24, 1816.

SIR,

I take the liberty of introducing to your notice, Mr. Francis S. Beattie, a student of medicine, who is particular desirous of obtaining the appointment of third mate to the Franklin 74.

He is a young man of education, talents, industry, and acquirements—and I am fully persuaded would be an honour to the medical department in which he solicits an appointment. I have taken the liberty of introducing him to your personal acquaintance; not only because I think him highly qualified for the appointment he wishes to obtain, but also because I feel sufficient interest in the service, to make every effort to promote the exertions of men of talents and education, in seeking for medical appointments in the Navy.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your most ob't. serv't.

WILLIAM. P. C. BARTON.

CHARLES STUART Esq. U. S. N.
Capt. of the Franklin 74.

Philadelphia, Oct. 31st. 1816.

SIR,

This will be handed or sent to you by Francis S. Beattie, a student of medicine of the University of Pennsylvania, and aged twenty-three years.

I take the liberty of recommending this gentleman to your official notice, with a view to assist him, if in my power to do so, in procuring the appointment of a surgeon's-mate in the Navy. He is particularly anxious to be ordered as third mate of the Franklin 74, as that situation would enable him to attend another course of lectures this winter.

Mr. Beattie is well known in the University, as a young man of talents, education, and industry, and I confidently believe, that if appointed a mate in the service, he will add honour to the list of mates.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your most ob't. serv't.
WILLIAM P. C. BARTON.
Surgeon U. S. N.

To B. CROWNENSHIELD,
Secretary of the Navy.

Philadelphia, Nov. 9, 1816.

DEAR SIR,

Mr. Francis S. Beattie, a student of medicine in the University of Pennsylvania; is desirous of obtaining the commission of a surgeon's-mate in the Navy. He is 23 years of age.

Mr. Beattie is a young man of talents, industry, and education, and I believe he is fully qualified for discharging the duties of third mate to the Franklin 74, an appointment he is particularly anxious to obtain. He has procured good recommendations for merit, from several medical gentlemen of high standing here. These he will transmit to the Secretary of the Navy, and Capt. Stuart has promised to use his influence in getting him ordered to his ship in the capacity above mentioned.

Should the appointment of Mr. Beattie be consistent with the good of the service, I beg leave to recommend him to your notice.

I am, dear Sir, with respect and esteem,
Your most ob't. serv't.
WILLIAM P. C. BARTON.

BENJ. HOMANS, ESQ.
Navy Department.

Drs. Eberle, Smith, and Rhees state that a question put by me to a candidate for graduation *was answered by him correctly*, but that I corrected him, and in that correction gave a wrong answer. Dr. McClellan stated that the candidate *did not answer the question*, but that I answered for him. What an unfortunate thing to have such a treacherous memory! These men had been arranging this *point d'affui* among themselves for several months previously, so that there might be no discrepancies in their statements. Unfortunately for Dr. McClellan's treacherous memory, I had required that the witnesses should be examined each apart, and one only was admitted into the room we occupied at a time. Dr. McClellan had not heard

the statement made by those who preceded him, and he had forgotten the concerted arrangement.

The colouring given to this incident is in *toto false*.

The candidate was asked by me the following very simple question, which required an answer equally simple, and which no man could mistake who had ever delivered a woman, and who knew that the placenta was detached from its connexion with the uterus by the tonic contraction of that organ. I asked the candidate by what circumstances he would be governed in the removal of the placenta after the birth of the child? Supposing from the manner in which he had answered the previous questions that his answer would be, as a matter of course, correct, my mind went in pursuit of another question and on another subject of the science. My attention was entirely diverted from both question and answer, when the candidate replied he would be governed by the pulsation in the chord. Dr. Eberle immediately observed, that is not correct, or something to that amount, repeating at the same time the answer that had been given. I then, for the first time, recognized the answer that had been given. The proper answer would have been, that he would wait till the uterus had taken on its tonic contraction. I did not, as stated by these men, give an answer of any shape or form to my own question. It is not probable that I would do so, nor is it common to answer one's own questions. I aver that the statement I have given is strictly true; and I challenge my enemies, I defy the community at large, to impeach my veracity. Not so with my persecutors, as we shall presently see.

I must not be charged here with malevolence in the remarks and exposition I shall be obliged to make. I am here making my defence—that defence which the gentlemen who investigated my case refused me an opportunity to present. The matter as well the manner and temper of their testimony was such, as requires the strictures I shall make on their credibility. They selected such men as would answer their purpose, before whom I was by them impeached. You shall now be their judges, and they shall testify of themselves. I bring no accusation against them. Hear them, and then you shall decide as to the degree of credibility to be attached to them in any case.

The Committee of Investigation would not admit Mr. Webster as a witness in the case. I now will give reasons the most urgent why they acted prudently, in refusing Mr. Webster's testimony. Mr. Webster is the publisher of a Journal entitled the *Medical Recorder*, a periodical work of much celebrity and of extensive circulation. The influence of such a Journal enlisted in behalf of the Jefferson Medical College, it was justly thought by the Professors would be an important acquisition. An effort was made to accomplish this object. Dr. Barton, and Dr. Colhoun, the editor, called on Mr. Webster, and urged him to appoint some of the then Professors editors. As an inducement they proposed to appoint Mr. Webster's son, Dr. Webster, Demonstrator of Anatomy in the Jefferson College. Mr. Webster rejected these offers.

During this effort at a negociation or traffic, some of the secret purposes and measures of the Professors of Jefferson College, tending to my removal, had been communicated to Mr. Webster. They dreaded hearing these matters in evidence, and after consulting as I am convinced, with the Professors, it was determined by the committee that Mr. Webster should not be admitted as a witness. One of the Professors, however, had other serious reasons for keeping back the testimony of Mr. Webster. Mr. Webster possessed precious documents in the hand writing of Dr. Eberle, which present a most melancholy picture of depraved human nature. Dr. Ducachet to whom this correspondence refers, was co-editor of the Medical Recorder with Dr. Eberle at the time this correspondence took place. Dr. Ducachet's standing as a physician, as a man of refined education and talent, and as a gentleman, was pre-eminent among his fellows in New York where he resided. I had heard of these letters about the time the chair of obstetrics in this Institution was offered me, and was cautioned on the subject. When I had discovered the duplicity and deceit of Dr. Eberle towards myself, the transaction which these letters details, came to my mind, and I addressed this note to Dr. Ducachet.

DEAR SIR,

July 1st, 1826.

I beg leave to ask of you a special favour: I wish you to give me a full and circumstantial account of Dr. John Eberle's conduct, (and your own views of it,) toward yourself in relation to the Editorship of the Medical Recorder. 'Tis not from motives of curiosity, but from necessity I ask it. 'Tis in self-defence I make the request; and by complying with it *promptly*, you may prevent him from injuring me in a vital point.

Believe me, Sir,

Truly your friend,

F. S. BEATTIE.

W. H. D

July 22, 1826.

MY DEAR SIR,

You wish from me a detailed account of Dr. Eberle's conduct in relation to the editorship of the Recorder. Reluctant as I would be to engage in any controversy, even as a *second*, under my present circumstances, I would not refuse to confide to you, my dear friend, the facts which I have in my possession on this subject, or my opinion which you solicit. At present, however, I have not the documents and letters at hand, from which alone I could procure the information you wish; and I ought not, in so important a matter, to trust to memory. Mr. James Webster, the Publisher, can, however, give you all the information which I possess about the editorship of the work, and will no doubt willingly communicate to you much more than ever came to my knowledge. I, therefore, refer you to him. Please inform him that you have heard from me, and give him my respects. Mr. Webster I will say, (I *must* say it to be just to his character), always treated me with the greatest kindness and respect. I found him liberal and

prompt in his engagements, and a gentleman in all his intercourse. However others may abuse him, depend upon it he is an honest fellow, and only needs to be treated honourably to reciprocate the same feelings and the same conduct.

Very truly,

Your friend,

H. W. D.

Philadelphia August 2nd, 1826.

SIR,

Not having the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with you, I take the liberty of enclosing a letter, received on Thursday last, from my friend, Dr. D. This letter will inform you of the object of my inquiry. And should you think proper to furnish me with such facts as you may have possession of, tending to elucidate the transactions of Dr. Eberle towards D., you will confer a favour and perhaps subserve the cause of justice.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient humble servant,

F. S. BEATTIE.

P.S. I should be pleased to have a personal interview with you when convenient.

Philadelphia, 5th August, 1825.

SIR,

Your note of the 2d, also a letter addressed to yourself, from Dr. D. are before me. In reply, I beg leave to state it will always give me pleasure agreeable to promise, to give Dr. D. or any of his friends, at his request, the information he asks. To give all the particulars in relation to Dr. Eberle's conduct to obtain the removal of Dr. D. would take up too much of my time. I therefore give you extracts of several letters written by Dr. Eberle to me; also an extract from a letter to me from Dr. D. which will give an idea of the whole affair. As it is possible the extracts may be doubted by some, I therefore send you the original letters, which you are at liberty to show to any person you please. In justice to Dr. D. I think it proper to state, that I always found him strictly honourable and just in all my transactions with him. I can also assert, that he bore a high and respectable character as a man of talents and science, with the subscribers to the Medical Recorder, notwithstanding what Dr. Eberle says to the contrary. In fine, I am confident that Dr. D. did more in establishing the Medical Recorder than any one of the other Editors. Being convinced of this fact, I declined to remove him.—The conduct of Dr. Eberle in relation to Dr. D. laid the foundation for his own final removal from the Editorship of the Medical Recorder.

I am, sir, yours respectfully,

JAMES WEBSTER.

N. B. If Dr. Eberle is to be believed, you will perceive by the letters, that Dr. McClellan must have borne a part in persecuting Dr.

D.....—you will also perceive that only a few days elapsed between the letters written by Dr. Eberle to me, and his writing to Dr. D.....

J. W.

Extract from a letter addressed to Mr. Webster by Dr. Eberle, dated

Philadelphia, July 31, 1821.

I would rather have the sole Editorship, provided I have a few names associated with mine, as contributors. Ducachet is, I find, wanting in judgment. He has made some lamentable faux-pas lately. However I do not know how you can well get rid of him.

From Dr. Eberle to Mr. Webster.

Philadelphia, November 11, 1821.

My reasons for requesting you to put off writing to Dr. Ducachet until I shall have seen you are, 1. That I am thoroughly convinced of his own contributions doing no good to the work. 2. That there is not the least congeniality of disposition, between himself and me, and that we are directly opposed upon some of the most important Pathological and Physiological points. 3. That he is exceedingly obstinate in error, even when he sees it, and that he is wholly occluded against reasonable remonstrance. 4. That he is not a man of deep or even shining medical acquirements, and lastly that he and I can never carry on any work with that harmony of feeling and confidential interchange of sentiment essential to the regular and successful operation of copartners in any undertaking.

From Dr. Eberle to Mr. Webster.

Philadelphia, November 15, 1821.

Since I have lost the only useful and properly qualified co-editors I have had, I really do not see any use in continuing my connexion with one who I sincerely believe to be an injury to the work. If you go to New York you will be enabled to hear how obnoxious D. has made himself by his course of conduct.

From Dr. Eberle to Mr. Webster.

Philadelphia, November 22, 1821.

With regard to another Editor, I beg leave to observe, that in the event of Ducachet receding from the Recorder, I can think of no man so well qualified as Dr. McClellan. I know however that the Dr. will have nothing to do with the work, as an Editor, unless it be in the event of Ducachet's leaving it.

Mr. Webster desirous of ascertaining the feelings entertained by Dr. D. towards Dr. Eberle, addressed to him a letter making some general inquiries, without communicating the sentiments above expressed by Dr. Eberle.

Dr. Ducachet returned the following reply to Mr. Webster.

New York, November 29, 1821.

In a late letter he (Dr. Eberle) writes to me in the following

grateful and friendly words: "I regret that Revere and Pattison have withdrawn from the Recorder. I am not afraid, however, but that you and I will be able fully to carry on the work with quite as much ability as it has hitherto been done. *There is no one with whom I would sooner conduct a journal than yourself; and I am perfectly satisfied that we, and we alone, should edit the Recorder.*"

What think ye of the man capable of writing, or speaking, or thinking after this manner? Is he worthy of credit? Would you trust him? And should such a man be permitted with impunity to direct a fatal thrust at the unsullied reputation of any man? Yet this man was one of my prosecutors, and on whose testimony no little stress was laid by the committee of investigation when deciding on their purpose of my professional shipwreck.

Dr. M'Clellan is confessedly the last man that should have been called as a witness in any case of alleged professional incapacity; not a syllable was heard in the investigation charging me with mal-practices in my profession, or of being, through ignorance, the author of inconvenience or detriment to those to whom I had rendered professional services. No, not a word; but on the contrary, Dr. Eberle states that his patients were all well satisfied. Dr. Eberle's language to me at the time was highly complimentary. So was the language of Dr. Rush with whom I had some bedside acquaintance as a physician. The language of Dr. Hartshorn to whom they had been also referred, would have been of the same stamp, had the committee called on him. References were asked by the committee; these two very distinguished physicians, who knew me as a practitioner, were named to them as sources from which an unbiassed opinion might be had. They were both favourably disposed to the Jefferson College; but the committee finding that references of such high standing were at hand, they did not call on them. Dr. Rush was called on at my urgent and repeated request. Judge King did not call on Dr. Hartshorn, though he had repeatedly promised to do so.

My professional and moral reputation was before the public, without a blot, without a stain. But what was the standing of Doctor M'Clellan professionally and individually, who was both a prosecutor of the charge of incompetency and a witness, to whom credence was given in support of that charge? Go to the poor and unfortunate Davis at the Alms House in this city;—ask him by what trick he was taken out of the hands of Dr. Parrish, under whose care he was daily improving;—inquire of him by what means and through what instrumentality he was rendered totally blind, and obliged to seek a cheerless refuge within the precincts of the Alms House. The man's name is Davis; ask him, and he will give you the unsophisticated truth. Of Dr. M'Clellan's professional veracity I will give you one characteristic instance. The case of J. Kunkle, corner of Coates street and the Ridge road, sign of the Volunteer, must be authentic,—it is in print in the first number of the second volume of the American Medical Review, of which Drs. Eberle, M'Clellan, and N. R. Smith, are editors.

From the American Medical Review.

"In the case of a young butcher, J. Kunkle, of Penn township, from whom I removed a frightful carcinomatous mass, extending from the lip very low down into the left side of the throat, I exposed the bifurcation of the carotid and secured, in succession, all the branches of the external trunk, with the exception of the occipital artery. In removing the sub-maxillary gland, I was necessarily obliged to secure the facial artery close to its origin,—in dissecting out an enlarged lymphatic gland, above and behind the former, I encountered the lingual artery;—and in raising up the lower portion of the parotid gland, which also was much enlarged and indurated, I had to secure the common trunk of the temporal and internal maxillary arteries. The stump of the external carotid was left at the bottom of the wound like the trunk of a tree divested of its branches. Beside all these vessels, I encountered a large vein, the one which returns the blood from the sub-maxillary and neighbouring glands, and secured it just at its junction with the internal jugular. *The patient recovered soon afterwards, with much less deformity than could have been anticipated by any one who had seen him before the operation.*"

Dr. M'Clellan publishes this case in 1825 as a case of cure. "The patient," he observes, "recovered soon afterwards, with much less deformity than could have been anticipated by any one who had seen him before the operation." But J. Kunkle did not get well. He lingered in great sufferance for a few short months, his father says "perhaps six, seven, or eight months," and then died in the Almshouse, July 9th, 1822, under, as I am informed, the immediate observation of Dr. M'Clellan, who was at the same time the attending Surgeon at that institution.

Instances of a similar general character are too often to be met with along the path of Dr. M'Clellan. As to the stamp of Dr. M'Clellan's general veracity, I shall refer you to those who have had intercourse with him. These references are made not with a view unnecessarily to affect the reputation of Dr. M'Clellan, but to show you that his testimony ought to be received with extreme caution in any case.

Here I leave Dr. M'Clellan, to say one word of Dr. Smith. With him I have had no intimacy, and of him I have little to observe beyond what has been already noticed. He is the companion of Dr. M'Clellan, and whether he brought with him to this city some traits of character similar to those of Dr. M'Clellan, or whether he is under the pupilage of Dr. M'C. I will not pretend to say. If the latter, he bids fair for proving himself an apt scholar, in the line of uttering untruths with a view to accomplish his purposes. In a speech addressed to some students collected in the dissecting room of the College, Dr. Smith stated, "that I had been removed from the chair of Obstetrics by the unanimous vote of ten disinterested Trustees, whose character and standing was of such a high grade as to have authorised the deed even had there been no reason assigned."

In this speech of Dr. Smith's he utters an untruth, which he

knew to be such. Doctor Smith knew that ten Trustees were not present at the vote taken in relation to my removal. He knew that of the ten Trustees appointed, Dr. Janeway had declined the acceptance. He might have known that Dr. Ely never had met with them but on one occasion, and at that meeting there was no business done. Doctor Smith probably knew, or might have known, that Mr. Duncan did not vote on the question. Here, then, we have seven instead of the boasted ten Trustees.

I should have passed in silence the Trustees, had not Dr. Smith been guilty of this gross misrepresentation as to them. I shall say nothing of the grade they hold in society—I speak now of Trustees who were present and voted on the question of removal, and I wish to be understood as speaking of their disinterestedness.

The Rev'd. Ashbel Green, D. D. President of the additional Board of Trustees of Jefferson College, is the father of Mr. Jacob Green, who I have been compelled to introduce to you in a former part of this narrative as the quondam Professor of Chemistry at Princeton College. All who know the Rev'd Dr. will appreciate his *disinterestedness*. The Dr. has borne a conspicuous part in some previous transactions relating to this College. No man reveres more than I do, the sacred office of the minister of the Gospel of Christ. To them I bow with respect, and would maintain their persons and character inviolate, so long as they attempt not to trample on the rights or trifle with the virtuous sensibilities of their fellow mortals—their equals. Dr. Green has forfeited this protection by his uncourteous treatment alone, in refusing to answer my polite communication to him. Dr. Green will, perhaps, at no distant period, come out with a manifesto or legal opinion, promulgated and addressed to the public under the sanction of the Board of Trustees. I will, however, take the liberty of anticipating him, by exhibiting a short history of an opinion furnished last winter.

The opinion at full length would occupy too much space. The Rev. Dr.'s preface I insert, as explaining sufficiently the occasion for this opinion; C. J. Ingersoll, Peter S. Duponceau, and Edward Ingersoll, Esqrs. were consulted. After a due investigation, C. J. Ingersoll and P. S. Duponceau Esqrs. declared the incapacity of the Jefferson Medical College to confer degrees in Philadelphia. Edwd. Ingersoll Esq., however, drew up an opinion which was endorsed by J. W. Condie Esq. purporting to prove that the Degrees might be legally conferred in Philadelphia as the College then stood. This opinion was printed and published with a view to allay the excitement produced in the minds of the students by the question touching the authority of the College in this matter. At the same time Edward Ingersoll Esq. expressed himself privately, as I was then informed, of a directly opposite opinion. It was then said, "this will answer to keep the students quiet for the time, but you are done if you don't obtain a charter from the legislature." Dr. Green at the time he wrote the preface, published with this opinion of Mr. E. Ingersoll, in which is clearly implied a conviction of its legality, knew that C. J. Ingersoll, and P. S. Duponceau Esqrs., had refused to sign any opinion to that effect.

JEFFERSON COLLEGE.

The Trustees of Jefferson College, in pursuance of the design of the Legislature, in founding that Seminary, "to diffuse information and promote the public good," have added to their *Faculty*, six Professors in various branches of Medical education; all residing in Philadelphia, where the opportunities are the best and most numerous, for acquiring the kind of instruction fitted to make learned, skilful, and respectable physicians.

The Trustees have been determined to sustain, and, if possible, to elevate the character of the Medical Profession in Pennsylvania, by requiring of the graduates upon whom they propose to bestow diplomas, a term of assiduous study at least as long, and proficiency in a range of instruction at least as large, as is demanded by any other Institution in this state; so as to place the Medical Department of their College on a footing of at least equal dignity with that of any other seminary in our country.

The first course of lectures has already commenced, and the only one of the Trustees now in Philadelphia, having been informed that some persons had *professed to doubt* the powers of the Jefferson College to teach medicine and confer medical degrees in the manner proposed, submitted the question to two gentlemen of the legal profession, from whom he has received the following opinion.

ASHBEL GREEN.

Mr. Ingersoll is the brother-in-law of Dr. McClellan. Mr. Badger is, I am told, the cousin of Dr. McClellan. Certes it was under the patronage of Mr. Badger, Dr. McClellan commenced the practice of medicine here.

Such are the names of these gentlemen who do the business of the Board of additional Trustees, and such the relations they sustain to each other. Of the other members of the Board who have acted in this matter, I have no knowledge in particular.

In conclusion, I submit almost without remark, the correspondence between the Trustees and myself. In the judgment of all impartial men, it will furnish of itself, I conceive, a proper comment.

August 19, 1826.

GENTLEMEN.—From the shortness of the time, as I intimated to you at our last meeting I feared would be the case, I shall not be prepared by Monday to exhibit to you the additional evidence I wish to produce in my defence, in relation to the charges against me, which have proceeded from the Members of the Faculty of the Jefferson Medical College. I will make every exertion however to procure the means of defence, so as to submit them to you, if possible, in the course of next week.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient humble servant,
F. S. BEATTIE.

Honourable E. KING and
SAMUEL BADGER, Esq.
Committee of Trustees of Jefferson College.

GENTLEMEN,

Philadelphia, August 25, 1826.

The written testimony which I stated to you as desirable previously to a decision, and necessary to "a full and fair investigation" of my case, has not been received. My whole course during this inquiry has been to expedite, not to retard its progress, and I regret that now I am compelled, from a sense of justice to myself, to request that the final decision may be delayed till next Thursday. I have again written for this expected testimony, through a different channel, supposing that the gentlemen I had already addressed might be absent from the city. Previously to Thursday next I will have the documents, or in case of failure, I will submit the case without them.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient humble servant,

Honourable E. KING,

F. S. BEATTIE.

S. BADGER, Esq

Committee of Board of Trustees
of Jefferson Medical College.

GENTLEMEN,

Philadelphia, Wednesday, 30th August.

Last evening I received a note from Samuel Badger, Esquire, one of the Committee, stating that "the Board of Trustees would meet this evening, and that any communication I had to make should be annexed to the report of the Committee." On Friday last I had the honour to apprise you by note, for the information of the Board, that the written testimony I had some time before applied for had not been received—that I had, on that day, again written for it, and that I hoped to be in possession of it by Thursday next, so as to submit it, with my defence, on Thursday evening; until which time I desired the postponement of the consideration of the question. The documents expected have not been received. To-morrow's mail I flatter myself will bring them. Receiving no reply to my communication, before your note of yesterday, I have acted on the supposition that there would be no meeting before Thursday, and of consequence cannot be prepared before that time.

I beg leave to renew the assurances of my earnest desire to facilitate the termination of this investigation. On the ground of respect, I would ask the favour of the Committee to communicate this note to the Board.

To-morrow evening, or any other time they may be pleased to name, I will submit to the Board of Trustees such matters as I may be enabled to present. I take leave to desire the Board will have the goodness to grant me the permission to offer in person my defence. Independently of other reasons, the propriety of this request will be at once recognised by them I am sure, when they are apprised that I reduced to writing, in the presence of the Committee, the testimony of the witnesses at the time of their examination.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. S. BEATTIE.

Hon. E. KING, and

S. BADGER, Esq.

Committee of Trustees of Jefferson Medical College.

Thursday Morning, Aug. 31, 1826.

DEAR SIR,

The Committee appointed by the additional Trustees of Jefferson College, will report in your case this evening, at half past seven o'clock. According to the suggestion of one of the Committee, made to you yesterday, this notification is furnished in order that you may be prepared to lay before the Board any thing you may think required by your interests.

Respectfully, yours, &c.

DR. F. S. BEATTIE.

EDWARD KING,
S. BADGER.

Philadelphia, September 2d, 1826.

SIR,

Not having received any communication from the Board of additional Trustees of the Jefferson College, since the evening of Thursday last, when I had the honour of exhibiting to them two letters received from officers of the United States Navy Department, in order to explain the cause of my not being in possession of, as I had anticipated, the recorded testimonials in my favour for which I had applied to the department, I take the liberty to desire of you as the President of the Board, information as to its proceedings on that evening in relation to my case; and especially to be informed whether the Board will be pleased to grant my request of being heard in person, on receipt of testimony which I deem highly important and essential. As to unnecessary delay on my part, I feel above any imputation of this sort. The candour of the gentlemen who composed the Committee, and with whom, almost exclusively, I have held intercourse on the subject, will, I think, attest my promptness in entering into the investigation. The request, therefore, proceeded from a conviction that in a matter affecting so vitally my reputation and happiness, not merely at this moment, but perhaps to the period of my existence, it was due to myself and family to require every reasonable opportunity fully to vindicate myself from the charges alleged against me. As to the result I can have no fear, when the matter shall have been fairly and properly presented to the intelligence and justice of the members of the Board.

Very respectfully,

Sir, your obedient Servant,

F. S. BEATTIE.

Rev. ASHBEL GREEN, D. D.

President of the Board of Trustees of Jefferson Medical College.

[Not answered.]

September 7th, 1826.

SIR—I am requested by the Board of additional Trustees of Jefferson College, to inform that they have resolved that it is expedient to vacate the chair held by you in the Medical Department.

Yours, &c.

E. INGERSOLL.

Dr. F. S. BEATTIE.

September 11th, 1826.

SIR,

I received on the 8th inst. a note from you, stating that you were "requested by the Board of additional Trustees of Jefferson College, to inform" me "that they have resolved that it is expedient to vacate the chair held by" me "in the medical department." The grounds of this resolution are not communicated. On the 2d inst. in consequence of not having received any communication from the Board after the evening of the preceding Thursday, (when nothing definite was made known to me,) I addressed a note to the Rev. Ashbel Green, D. D. President of the Board, desiring to be informed as to its proceedings on that evening, in relation to my case, and especially whether the Board would grant my request of being heard in person, on receipt of testimony deemed essential to the justice of the case. To this application neither the President nor any other organ of the Board, condescended to return the slightest answer.

The resolution of the Board, according to my construction of its phraseology, as communicated by you, is not a vacation of the chair, but a declaration, on the part of the Board, of the expediency of vacating it. I am induced to consider this the proper construction of the resolution, because I cannot believe the Board have resolved to deprive me of the fair and full investigation of the alleged causes of removal guaranteed by the original charter. It is perfectly true that I did at one period contemplate proceeding in the investigation without the documents, for which I had several times written to the U. S. Navy Department at Washington, and which were withheld from me, as appeared from the letters of the Clerks of the Department, exhibited to the Board, in the first instance, on the ground that the rules of the office required that the Department should be apprized of the purposes for which papers are desired, before they are furnished; and in the second instance, (after the occasion of them had been made known to the Department,) in consequence of the absence of the Secretary of the Navy from Washington. This intention proceeded from a continued desire to facilitate the investigation, and from a sanguine belief that I would be in possession of the documents. I had already, on a very short notice, and with much inconvenience to myself, proceeded far in the inquiry. On deliberate consideration, I deemed it necessary to provide myself with additional means of defence. And conceiving that liberality and justice would forbid any attempt to take advantage of what was honest, but perhaps imprudent zeal on my part, in making the offer, to the possible sacrifice of my dearest interests, I desired further time, a short period, highly important and due to my rights, and which could not, I apprehend, have affected the rights of others. This request, as I have already stated, was not noticed. I now, as matter of right, respectfully request of the Board of Trustees, through you, sir, as their organ, to be informed of the nature of the report of the committee of inquiry,—of the reasons of the resolution above referred to,—whether my construction of the resolution corresponds with that of the Board,—and whether I shall be allowed the opportunity of exhibiting the additional testimony I propose, and of presenting my

defence in order to a fair and full investigation of the alleged causes of removal. The favour of an early answer is desired. The Board will at once perceive the propriety of returning a prompt reply as regards the future course to be adopted on my behalf.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient humble servant,

F. S. BEATTIE.

EDWARD INGERSOLL, Esq.

September 12, 1826.

DEAR SIR,

I have just received your letter dated yesterday, and as there will be no meeting of the Board of additional Trustees for some days, I will at once reply, so far as I can unofficially, to your inquiries.

1. The report of the Committee was a digested summary of the evidence which you heard and which you adduced.

2 Your construction of the resolution corresponds, as I believe, with that of the Board. The Trustees at Cannonsburg will decide whether the recommendation of the additional Trustees shall be complied with or not.

3. As to the opportunity of exhibiting additional testimony before the Committee, or the additional Trustees, and the opportunity of being heard by the additional Trustees, I beg leave to refer you to the following extracts from the minutes, as approved and adopted by the Board :

“ Dr. Beattie attended, with a request to be heard on the subject of the investigation into his competency as a Professor of Midwifery ; and withdrew until the Board should be ready to hear his application.

“ Dr. Beattie being called in, stated his application to be for an opportunity to adduce further evidence before the Committee, to establish his defence by showing a report to the Navy Department made by the Chief Surgeon of the Mediterranean squadron ;* and also additional evidence of the satisfaction of his class to whom he lectured last winter. And, also, for an opportunity to be heard before this Board.”

Dr. Beattie having withdrawn, it was

“ *Resolved*, That it is not expedient to accede to his request touching the production of further evidence, inasmuch as the fact of his having borne a high character as a naval surgeon is irrelevant : and the Committee have already reported to this Board that his class were satisfied with the manner and matter of his lectures actually given, and dissatisfied only with the deficiency in their number.

“ And it was also *Resolved*, That this Board is ready and willing

* There is an error in the minutes of the Board. Dr. B. was never attached to the Mediterranean Squadron. He wished to produce the report of the Surgeon of the Frigate Constellation, and desired an opportunity to produce testimony (not noticed in the minutes) intended to show the causes of omissions to lecture. His request was refused.

to hear Dr. Beattie, if he wishes to say any thing respecting the investigation."

Dr. Beattie being again called in, was informed of these resolutions; whereupon he informed the Board, that he was not ready to address them, and declined the opportunity of being heard this evening."

I will lay your letter before the Board at our next meeting, and if charged to make any further communication to you, I will lose no time in doing so.

With great respect,
Your obedient servant,
EDWARD INGERSOLL.

Dr. F. S. BEATTIE.

Philadelphia, September 14th, 1826.

Sir,

Presuming that the proceedings thus far of the Board of additional Trustees in my case have been communicated to the parent board, I take the liberty of enclosing copies of four communications between myself and the organs of the Board here; in order to apprise the parent Board, so far as it is in my power at the present moment, of the course adopted towards me, and in order that the Board at Cannonsburg may not, as I am sure they would not, when rightly advised of the circumstances, confirm the resolution of the Board in this city, without granting me a full opportunity of refuting the charges alleged, and of vindicating my character. The Trustees will be pleased to observe, that the reasons of the resolution, expressing the "expediency" of vacating the chair, are withheld from me; I beg leave to add, that if the Board of Trustees here persist in refusing me the privilege of full defence, I will appeal with confidence to the parent Board. As to the digested summary of the evidence, stated in Mr. Ingersoll's letter to have been reported by the Committee, it may be remarked, that the Committee took no notes of the evidence, and that therefore it is to be presumed, this summary was furnished from the memory of the Members of that Committee. The only notes in writing of the evidence on both sides, were taken by me, and shall be produced on the proper occasion.

I shall renew my request to the Board in this city, for distinct answers to the inquiries contained in my letter of the 11th inst. inasmuch as Mr. Ingersoll's answer of the 12th is both unofficial and unsatisfactory. May I beg the favour Sir, that you submit these documents to the Board, over which you preside, as early as possible.

Very respectfully,

Sir, your obedien' servant,

REV. SAMUEL RALSTON, D. D.
President of Board of Trustees
of Jefferson College.

F. S. BEATTIE.

[Not answered.]

September 15th, 1826.

SIR,

I received yesterday your letter of the 12th inst., professing to reply "unofficially" to my communication of the 11th, addressed to the Board of additional Trustees of Jefferson College, through you as their organ. I pray you Sir to accept my thanks for your polite personal attention to the matter. You state in conclusion that you "will lay the letter before the Board at its next meeting, and if charged to make any further communication to me, you will lose no time in doing so." In reference to this, I would remark, that your unofficial reply, (I say this with respect,) is altogether unsatisfactory, and that I wish the Board of Trustees distinctly to understand, that I desire from them an official reply to the several inquiries of my note of the 11th inst. already referred to. You will be good enough to make this known to the Board.

Respectfully

Your obedient Servant,

EDWARD INGERSOLL, Esq.

F. S. BEATTIE.

Philadelphia, September 28th, 1826.

SIR,

Will you do me the favour to inform me, whether my communications have been laid before the Board of additional Trustees of Jefferson College?

Respectfully

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD INGERSOLL, Esq.

F. S. BEATTIE.

September 29th, 1826.

SIR,

I received your note dated the 28th, and asking for information whether your several communications have been laid before the Board of additional Trustees of Jefferson College.

There has been a meeting, and an adjourned meeting of the Board, at which I was not present.—I understand, however, your two communications addressed to me were laid before the Board.

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant,

DR. F. S. BEATTIE.

EDW. INGERSOLL.

October 2nd, 1826.

SIR,

The day after my communication to you of the 14th inst., I addressed another note to Mr. Ingersoll, as the official organ of the Board of Trustees here, requiring explicit replies to the inquiries I had already made under date of the 11th. September. I have received no reply to this note. I can account for such uncourteous treatment on no other ground than that of a determination, "*per fas et nefas*," to remove me. Against such conduct I now formally enter my solemn protest, and to the parent Board I appeal for that

justice, which, by the original constitution of the Medical School, they have pledged themselves to render. The board by that charter have stipulated and contracted, that no Professor shall be removed without "a fair and full investigation of the alleged causes of removal, and in no other way;" implying most clearly that the alleged causes of removal must be substantiated in the investigation before the removal can be lawfully effected. In the present instance the investigation has been neither a fair nor a full one, as is abundantly evident from the correspondence I have already transmitted to you, including the statements made in Mr. Ingersoll's note to me of the 12th inst. The Committee of Investigation, when urged by me to take up the broad question of the general and particular condition of the School, in order thus to inquire into the conduct and character of each Professor connected with it, objected in the most decided terms to that course. They stated that they were directed to attend exclusively to the question of my "incompetency." I was notified of this, their purpose and course, at one o'clock P. M. of a certain day, and was directed to meet the Committee at seven P. M. of the same day. I objected to this abrupt commencement, stating that I was by no means prepared to enter on the matter with this unprecedented haste. I was then assured I might, at any time, suspend the investigation for the purpose of procuring means of defence when I should deem it necessary. By the communications I have already transmitted to your Board, you will perceive that this pledge has not been redeemed.

As to the question of my competency as a lecturer, (the only question,) it appears from the extracts from the minutes of the Board, furnished by Mr. Ingersoll, in his note of the 12th, that the Committee reported to the Board that "the class" that attended my lectures "were satisfied with the manner and matter of" the "lectures actually given, and dissatisfied only with the deficiencies in their number." This (even admitting some dissatisfaction for the omissions, of which there were in all but about eight out of sixty-four lectures) is an evident abandonment of the alleged and exclusive cause for removal which they were directed to investigate. On this ground, therefore, even on the report of the committee, and without the conclusive testimony I could have furnished to refute the charge, there can be no removal without a violation of the faith pledged by the parent Board at the establishment of the Medical Department. This contract the Legislature have not annulled by their act of the last session, nor can your Board either legally or justly rescind it. The charge of incompetency was so amply disproved by the testimony of the members of the class, that the Board refused, as Mr. Ingersoll states, to hear further testimony on this point. It appears, then, from the same authority, that the omissions alone remained without a satisfactory explanation. These omissions amounted to the number of about eight, and to account for these I offered to adduce satisfactory evidence. The opportunity to exhibit this testimony was refused me. Two of these omissions were caused by the situation of my own private affairs; and the others were in consequence of my attendance on the practice of Dr. Eberle during his absence at Har-

risburg. But if it could be thought just that a resolution should be adopted declaring it expedient to remove me from a Professorship, because I had omitted a few lectures during the session, with how much more should a similar resolution have been adopted with regard to Dr. Eberle, who, by an absence of six weeks, omitted probably thirty lectures? Under these circumstances I now respectfully require of the Board, agreeably to their solemn pledge and contract, on the faith of which I embarked in the enterprize and became a Professor in the Medical Department of the College, a fair and full investigation of the alleged cause of removal, and an opportunity to show that the grounds of proceeding against me are unjust and false. The determination of the Board as to my request, I would thank you to communicate at the earliest moment.

Very respectfully, sir,

Your obedient humble servant,

F. S. BEATTIE.

Rev. SAMUEL RALSTON, D. D.
President of the Board of Trustees
of Jefferson College.

[Not answered.]

After this letter I received no communication from the Trustees here, or those at Cannonsburg, until the following unofficial note from Mr. Ingersoll, was received on the day I had announced in the public papers, that I would, on the following Thursday, deliver an Introductory Lecture to a Course of Lectures on Obstetrics.

October 28th 1826.

SIR,

I sometime since received a copy of a resolution passed by the General Board of Trustees of Jefferson College, at Cannonsburg, on the 27th of Setember last, which is in these words.

"Resolved, that Dr. Francis S. Beattie be and he is hereby removed from the Professorship of Midwifery, of the Medical Department of this College, in the city of Philadelphia."

(Signed)

SAMUEL RALSTON,

Prest. Board of Trustees.

I supposed a similar certificate had been sent to you, but infer the contrary from advertisement which I see in the Democratic Press, and therefore make this communication.

Respectfully, your &c.

EDWARD INGERSOLL,

Secretary of the Board of
Additional Trustees.

DR. F. S. BEATTIE.

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